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quoted. The book is at once a credit to author and publisher and is one which lawyer, student and citizen will find of interest and profit.

THE ART OF CROSS-EXAMINATION. Francis L. Wellman. New York : The MacMillan Company. 1903. pp. 283.

It is only fair to the author to consider this volume as one in which he makes no pretense to present a scientific treatise on a difficult branch of trial practice, but aims to give to students and young practitioners valuable suggestions, and to the public an interesting view of one phase of legal activity; and so considered, it deserves commendation. The author's statements will not always bear close analysis, and certainly many of them will not receive universal acceptance, especially some of those appearing in the introductory chapter, such as the ones relating to the cause of the congestion of the trial calendars, and the diminution in important commercial litigation; but even these are well worth consideration and are made in such a manner as to demand attention. It is to be regretted that the chapter entitled "Silent Cross-Examination" was not made more exhaustive, and the dangers of unnecessary cross-examination more fully emphasized, since the temptation to try his skill, or lack of it, on every adverse witness is the one which the young lawyer seems least able to resist.

The chapter on "Cross-Examination to Credit" is capital, and the following statement which appears therein could hardly be improved upon, viz. :—"To warrant an investigation into matters irrelevant to the main issues in the case, and calculated to disgrace the witness or prejudice him in the eyes of the jury, they must at least be such as tend to impeach his general moral character and his credibility as a witness. There can be no sanction for questions that tend simply to degrade the witness personally, and which can have no possible bearing upon his veracity." It may be said without hesitation that the suggestions which are made in this volume as the result of a long and unusually large and successful practice as an advocate, and the experiences recounted well deserve and will well repay study by the young man ambitious to succeed as a trial lawyer; and that the author has achieved his purpose of interesting the public is manifest by the favorable notices of the book which have appeared in the daily press.

CASES ON CRIMINAL LAW. William E. Mikell. Part II. Philadelphia : International Printing Co. 1903. pp. 505 to 983.

In the preparation of Part II the author has maintained the high standard of excellence set by him in Part I. The method of selection and arrangement of cases corresponds closely to that of Part I, the most noticeable change being an increased proportion of English cases and a freer use of quotations from the early writers in Part II. As was indicated in the review of Part I, 3 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 362, Part II, includes cases on specific crimes only and the completed work therefore, provides no material for the study of the law of procedure at criminal law, extradition, or juris-

diction. This is perhaps the most serious criticism which can be made upon the work intended as it is for use as a student's textbook. Taken as a whole, aside from this and some minor criticisms, the work merits the highest commendation. It is a pleasure to welcome the publication of a selection of cases so carefully prepared and so thoroughly scientific. The press work is unusually attractive and in entire keeping with the general excellence of the work.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM; ITS COST AND COMPLEXITY. William C. Niblack. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1903. pp. vi. 205.

Mr. Niblack states in the full title that his work is "a legal and practical treatise" on the system. In his preface he warns the public that he is a member of an abstract company whose business would be lessened if not destroyed, as the Torrens advocates maintain, by the successful operation of a Torrens act. This statement is made in order that the reader may seize his point of view and give due weight to the personal equation. The statement is eminently proper and necessary; for the book bristles with hostility to the Torrens System as a whole and in all of its parts. The treatise is "legal" in that it is a brief for the other side. It should be said however, that Mr. Niblack gives a thoroughly satisfactory outline of the system. There is no enthusiasm in his exposition: the claims of its supporters are scrutinized from the standpoint of law, expediency and cost. If the Torrens system whose principal feature "is an indefeasible title to lands through a guaranty of such title by the state"—is to supplant the present system of recording and abstract of title it must meet and overcome such criticism.

As a matter of fact Torrens laws varying in detail but alike in the registration of title exist in this country in Illinois, (in operation only in Cook County); California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Minnesota and Colorado. According to Mr. Niblack, the acts have been far from successful in Illinois, Massachusetts, and in Minnesota. "In Oregon almost nothing has been done under the act, while in California no application has ever been made and passed upon, and no certificate of title has ever been issued," (p. 19).

The system has been, it would seem, successful in Australasia; but "it is probably impossible," Mr. Niblack says, "to state the elements which have made it an utter failure in every other country where it has been tried, and where the laws do not compel persons to use it." (p. 14.) In England, the act of 1897 provides for making the registration of titles compulsory in certain places and London has been subjected to the operation of the act. Mr. Niblack states that the act has been a comparative failure and repeated demands have been made for its repeal. However he is doubtless correct in maintaining that "in the variety of opinions about the success of the system in England, it is utterly impossible for us to form any correct idea of the actual conditions there" (p. 18).